

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

- A secret key of an entity is generated at each key generating agency (center) by using divided identification information obtained by dividing identification information of the entity into a plurality of
- 5 blocks and a hash value which consists of a plurality of bits and is set for each key generating agency (center). A plurality of bits of any order are selected for each key generating agency (center) from an original hash-value sequence consisting of a predetermined sequence of a plurality of bits so as to set the hash value for each
- 10 key generating agency (center). When a new key generating agency (center) is added to a plurality of existing key generating agencies (centers), a hash value is set for the new key generating agency (center) without changing the hash values of the existing key generating agencies (centers).

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10)